

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 9 are currently amended, and claim 12 is added. No claims are canceled.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nakamura, U.S. Patent No. 6,516,347, in view of Ylonen, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0250072. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 each describe a method for managing a plurality of network devices. Claims 5-8 each describe a network management system having a plurality of network devices. Claims 9-11 each describe a network device management equipment for managing a plurality of network devices. Each of claims 1-11, as now amended, further specifies that management equipment manages to indicate the identifier only on a network device, which is requested to indicate the identifier.

Neither Nakamura nor Ylonen, alone or combined, teach or suggest this subject matter. Accordingly, the obviousness rejection should now be withdrawn.

With the present submission, applicant adds claim 12, which describes a network device having a reception unit and a display unit. For details of the features of the reception unit and the display unit, please reference the recitation above.

In view of the remarks above, applicant submits that the entire application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is now requested. If the Examiner believes that issues remain unresolved, he is welcome to contact the undersigned.

If necessary, the undersigned authorizes deducting any fees that may be due from Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Felber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" being more prominent.

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